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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:)
Birger E. Sorensen)
Title: NITS SEPARATOR)
Serial No.: NEW)
Filed On: HEREWITH) (Our Docket No.: 6474-02WOUS)

Hartford, Connecticut, January 11, 2001

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Upon entry of the above-identified international application into the U.S. national stage and before prosecution on the merits, the following amendments are requested to place the specification and claims into better U.S. form.

In the Specification: The attached Substitute Specification pages 1-11 incorporate amendments included in the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under Article 36 as well as further amendments to place the specification into better U.S. form. Please substitute the attached Substitute Specification pages 1-11 for the Corrected English Translation of the specification filed with the International Bureau of WIPO on July 14, 2000.